

**BERNARD P. CARVALHO, JR.**  
Mayor



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**Mayor Carvalho reacts to monk seal attack on Kaua'i**

Kaua'i police responded to a report of a monk seal that was being attacked by an unidentified man at Salt Pond Beach at approximately 7:45 p.m. Tuesday night.

"Like many citizens on Kaua'i and across the state, I watched a video of a man apparently attacking a monk seal at Salt Pond Beach on Tuesday evening," stated Mayor Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr. "I share our community's shock and disappointment as this behavior is both unacceptable and illegal."

Kaua'i police notified the state Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and county officials are in ongoing communication with DLNR and NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement, which is the lead agency in the ongoing federal investigation.

"The Hawaiian monk seal is one of the most endangered marine mammals in the world and they are endemic to Hawai'i," added Mayor Carvalho. "They deserve our respect and protection, and our gratitude goes out to the bystanders who immediately contacted authorities. I urge anyone with information on the suspect to please report it."

Hawaiian monk seals are protected under the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and state law. To harass, disturb, or injure a monk seal is a crime.

To report information on this incident, contact NOAA Fisheries Enforcement Hotline at 1-800-853-1964. To report a marine mammal in danger on Kaua'i, call the Kaua'i Marine Mammal Response Hotline at 651-7668.

For more information on the Hawaiian monk seal and efforts to protect it, visit the NOAA Fisheries website, [http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/PRD/prd\\_hawaiian\\_monk\\_seal.html](http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/PRD/prd_hawaiian_monk_seal.html).

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